

**MEXICO**

*this month*



**MEXICO**

*this month*



*in May*

PERIODICALS

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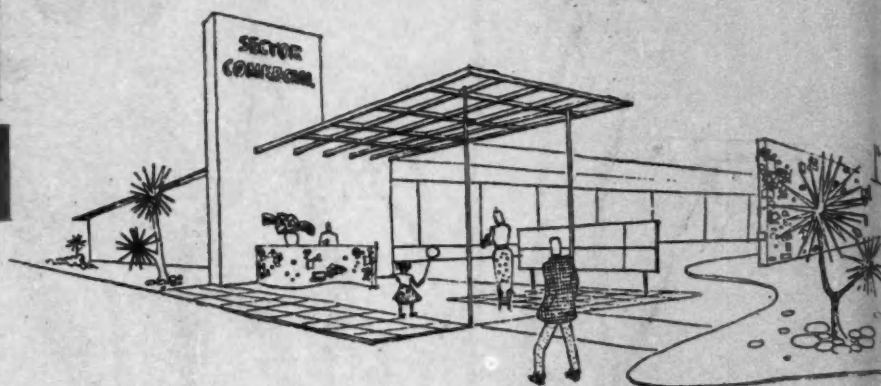
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# TOLUCA FAIR

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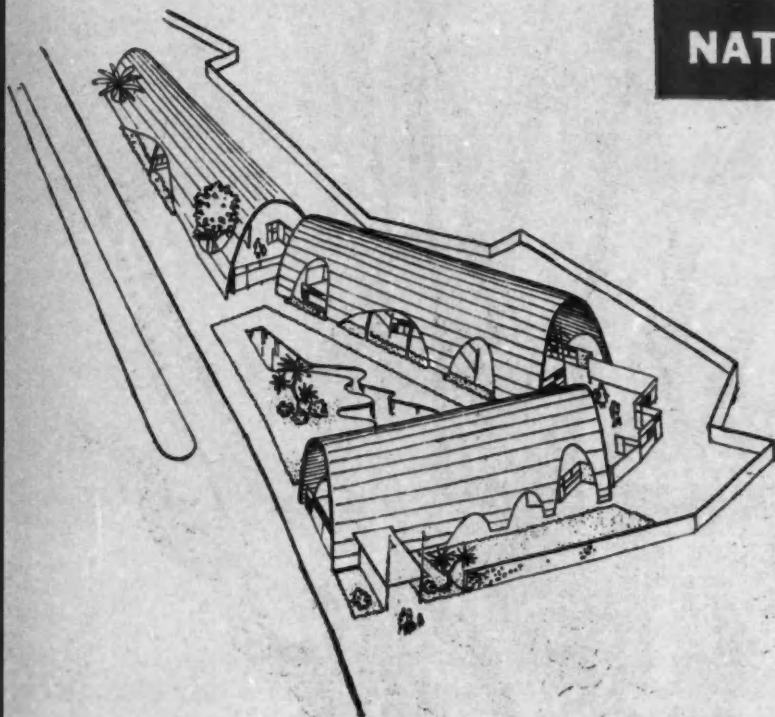
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# Preview

## WHAT TO SEE, WHERE TO GO IN MAY

### FIESTAS & SPECTACLES

**Chila, Puebla, May 3-5** — Colorful spring festival, made doubly so by the Chi na Poblana costumes of the women.

**Nogales, Sonora, May 3-5** — Flower festival, with popular dances, allegorical floats ornamented with flowers, and flower battles.

**Palmillas, Tamaulipas, May 3-15** — Popular



fiesta in which the regional dances are featured; also cockfights and charro events.

**Toluca, México, May 6-20** — The Agricultural, Livestock, Industrial and Crafts Fair of the State of Mexico, is the most important and most interesting of the current month, organized by the State government in cooperation with all sectors of the State's economic life. Products exhibited will be sold at cost. It is a fair rich in folklore as interpreted through songs, dances and handicrafts — plus plenty of fireworks.

**Guadalajara, Jalisco, May 5-June 3.** — First Corn Fair, with all the educational and entertainment attractions of a really big fair.

**Tenabo, Campeche, May 8-15** — In this tiny village, one of the oldest in the state and one which still preserves much of its Spanish Colonial appearance, there takes place each year at this time a popular fair, religious in origin, which attracts visitors from neighboring towns and villages, and even from Yucatán.

**Cárdenas, San Luis Potosí, May 10-30** — The Spring Festival in this lovely little town, in a region steeped in folklore, lasts for 20 days. Visitors from far and near gather to enjoy the Huastecan songs and dances and other diversions offered.

### OF SPECIAL INTEREST

**Tuesday 1** — Labor Day. Mass meeting of workers in the Zócalo to be addressed by the President.

**Friday 4 to Tuesday 8** — IV National Charro Congress, held in conjunction with the Toluca Fair. (See Horses.)

**Saturday 5** — Anniversary of the Battle of Puebla, in which the Mexican army defeated the French invaders. In Puebla, big parade and celebration. In Mexico City, observance at the Panteón de San Fernando.

**Sunday 6 to Sunday 20** — in Toluca, Agricultural, Livestock, Industrial and Crafts Fair of the State of Mexico. (See Fiestas & Spectacles.)

**Tuesday 8** — Anniversary of the birth of Miguel Hidalgo, Mexican Independence hero.

**Saturday 12** — Debut of *Holiday on Ice*, at Arena México, Dr. Lavista 181A.

**Monday 14** — at the Palace of Fine Arts, recital (one only) by Marian Anderson. (See Music.)

**Friday 25 to Sunday 27** — National Water Skiing Championship competition at the Catalina Ski Club, Lake Tequesquitengo, Gro.

**Thursday 31** — Corpus Christi Day. (See page 9 and following.)



Every Sunday morning — behind the Flower Market in Chapultepec Park, Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, presented by one of the best of the young experimental groups.

**Entremeses de Cervantes and Pasos de Lope de Rueda** — Fourth season of the University Theater in Guanajuato. *Los Entremeses* will be presented May 4, 11 and 25; *Los Pasos*, May 5, 12, 19 and 26. Directed by Enrique Ruelas.

### IN THIS ISSUE

You explore America's newest city and oldest University — University City. We give you the lowdown on other summer schools throughout the country, too.

### MEXICO/ this month

Vol. II, No. 5 May 1956

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Perte pagado.

**Preview Editor: Antonio Menéndez Tel. 18-45-10**

Chimaltitán, Jalisco, May 12-17 — Religious fiesta in honor of Saint Pascual, with *charro* events, cockfights, bullfights and horse races, to the accompaniment of *mariachis* and the famous *Jarabe Tapatio*.

Tixkokob, Yucatán, May 17-22 — Simplicity is perhaps the most attractive fea-

ture of the traditional fiesta in this ancient village. Tent theaters are installed in the central plaza, together with some carnival equipment. Dances are held in the ample patios of the Municipal Palace, the music ranging from the typical *Jarana* to ultramodern cha-cha-cha.

## ART

Club Fotográfico Mexicano, San Juan de Letrán 80. May 1-17, exhibition of photographs taken by members on

the theme of Modern Architecture. May 17-31, exhibit of landscape photos. Open 3 to 10 pm.

Galería Chapultepec, at the entrance to Chapultepec Park, across from the Monument to the Niños Héroes. 4,000 Years of Mexican Architecture.

Galería de Arte Mexicano, Milán 18. Selected paintings by Irma René Koen.

Galería de Arte Moderno, Reforma 34. European engravings, presented by the National University of Mexico. Open 11 am to 8 pm.

Galería José Clemente Orozco, Peralvillo 55. Exhibition of drawings by children in the capital's primary schools, on themes related to hygiene. Until May 20.

Galería Romano, José María Marroqui 15. Ninth Spring Salon, collective exposition of new and established painters, variety of themes and techniques. Open 12 noon to 2 pm. and 3 to 9 pm.

Jardín del Arte, Sullivan Park, behind the Monument to Motherhood. Open-air exhibition on Sundays from 10 am to 3 pm of 200 works of different techniques and styles, by 100 young painters sponsored by the Mexican National Youth Institute.

Galerías Camps, Antonio Caso 33. May 1-15, exhibition of European paintings in Mexico. May 15-30, works of contemporary artists of Guanajuato. Open 11 am to 8 pm.

Museo Nacional de Artes Plásticas, foyer of Fine Arts Palace. Exhibit of Japanese engravings by Ukiyo Ye.

Salón de la Plástica Mexicana, Puebla 154. Mexican engravings, chosen from works of the engravers of Taller de la Gráfica Popular and the Sociedad Mexicana de Grabadores. Open 10 am to 2 pm, 4 to 8 pm.

## MUSIC

National Symphony Orchestra. Series of concerts presented by Asociación Musical Daniel in the Palace of Fine Arts; every Friday during the month at 9 pm, every Sunday at 11:15 am. Permanent director, Luis Herrera



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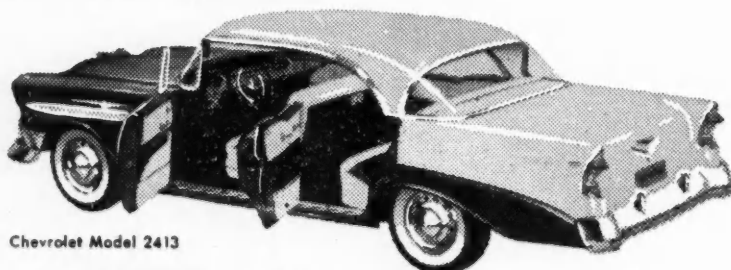
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de la Fuente; guest conductor, Lorin Magel. Piano soloists, Luz María Puente and Rudolf Firkosky. On either May 6 or 11, the premiere of *La Cantata de Prokofieff*, by Alexander Nevsky, will be presented. Tickets available at José María Marroqui 28-405, telephone 12-77-04, or at the Fine Arts box, office on the day of the concert.

**Marian Anderson**, internationally famous soloist, will be presented in a single concert at the Palace of Fine Arts on May 14 at 9 pm.

**Concert Opera** — organized by the National Institute of Fine Arts, every Sunday at 4 pm, in the Palace of Fine Arts.

**Youth Concerts** — organized by the Asociación Musical Manuel M. Ponce, on May 3, 10, 17 and 24 at 9 pm in Fine Arts Palace. Soloists, singers, choral groups, string quartets and wind quintets.

**Chamber Music Concerts** — every Monday at 9 pm, in the Sala Ponce of the Palace of Fine Arts.



**Holiday on Ice**, spectacular ice ballet, will be presented for three weeks, beginning May 11, at the recently opened Arena México, Dr. Lavista 181A.

## THEATER

**Anastasia**, in English, will be staged by Players, Inc., English language repertory Little Theater group, at Villalongin 32. 25-31-56. Directed by Tom Osborn, the cast includes Elizabeth Feldhaus, Aenid McCrae, George Rado and Stephen Szeckly.

**La Muralla** — by the Spanish dramatist Joaquín Calvo Sotelo. With Sara García, Domingo Soler, Maricruz Olivier and Fernando Soler, who also directs. Sala Chopin, Insurgentes and Puebla, 11-38-17. Weekdays 7:15 and 9:45 pm, Wednesday through Saturday; Sundays 5 and 8 pm.

**Una Mujer para los Sábados** — Mexican vaudeville by Federico S. Inclán. With Magda Guzmán, Julio Alemán and Luz María Núñez, directed by Luis G. Basurto. Teatro del Globo, París 26. 35-73-83. A presentation of the National Authors Association and the National Institute of Fine Arts. Weekdays 7:15 and 9:45 pm; Sundays 5 and 8 pm.

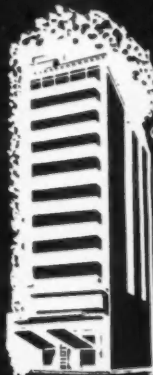
**Zanza y Sus Maridos** — Satirical comedy by Max Reigner y Gillois, translated by Carmen Toscano. Parallel between women who nullify their husbands and the head-shrinking savages of the Amazon jungles. With Carlos López Moctezuma, Emilia Giú and Andrea Palma. Directed by José de J. Aceves. Teatro de la Comedia, Villalongin 32. 28-56-38. Weekdays 7:15 and 9:45 pm; Sundays 5 and 8 pm.

**Ocho Columnas** — Salvador Novo's original satire about the press and newspapermen. With Raúl Dantés, Ofelia Guilmáin and Miguel Suárez, directed by Salvador Novo. Teatro de la Capilla, Madrid 13, Coyoacán. 24-90-02. Weekdays 7:15 and 9:30 pm; Sundays 5 and 8 pm; closed Wednesdays.

## HORSES

**Racing** — Hipódromo de las Américas, Lomas de Sotelo, D. F. Races Tuesday and Saturday at 2 pm, Sunday at 11 am. Four classics are scheduled for May: Sunday 6, Tenth Mexican Derby for 3-year-olds and up, 1-1/8 miles, 100,000 peso added purse; Sunday 13, Sixth Debutante Classic for 2-year-old mares born in Mexico, 30,000 peso added purse; Sunday 20, Tenth Quarter Handicap of the Americas, for 3-year-olds and up, 1-1/4 miles; Sunday 27, Eighth Anáhuac Classic, for 2-year-olds and up, 5 furlongs, 40,000 peso added purse.

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**Charros** — IV National Charro Congress in Toluca, State of Mexico, May 4-8. Friday 4: Inaugural Watch, 8 pm, Miguel Alemán Auditorium. Saturday 5: 10 am, parade; 12 noon, *charro* events in the Centro Charro. Sunday 6: mounted contingents will accompany the President of the Republic to the site of the Toluca Fair, after which, at 4 pm, there will be a bullfight in a specially constructed plaza on the fair grounds. Monday 7: 10 am, competition to select best-dressed and best-mounted *Charro*, at the fair grounds; 11 am, second session of *charro* events; 8 pm, theatrical presentation in the Fair Auditorium in honor of the *Charros*. Tuesday 8: 11 am, third and final *charro* competition and awarding of prizes; 8 pm, closing ceremony in the Miguel Alemán Auditorium; 10 pm, Grand Ball, with a contest among the *Charras* for the most beautiful regional dress, in the Centro Deportivo Agustín Millán. The entire *charro* program takes place in Toluca, and forms a part of the Toluca Fair.

## SPORTS

**Baseball** — Social Security Park, Av. Cuauhtémoc and Calzada del Obreiro Mundial. Championship series of the Mexican Baseball League, Class AA, between the teams of Nuevo Laredo, Monterrey, Veracruz, Yucatán, and the two Mexico City teams, México and Tigres. Games at 7:30 pm, Tuesday through Saturday, 11:30 am Sunday. Tickets at the box office two hours before game time.

**Boxing** — Arena Coliseo, Perú 77. Matches between lightweight fighters, who are the boxing stars in México, every Wednesday and Saturday, 9 pm. A possible stellar attraction for the month will be a return match between Tomás López and Bombín Padilla, for the welterweight championship; however, the exact date has not yet been set. Tickets at the box office two hours before fight time.

**Frontón (Jai-Alai)** — Fast Basque game which is one of the most popular sports in this sports-conscious country. At Frontón México, Ramos

Arizpe and Plaza de la República, games every Thursday, Saturday and Sunday at 7 pm; 3 games, 3 *quinielas* and a daily double. Admission 4 pesos.

At Frontón Colón, Ignacio Ramírez 15, games every day except Thursday, beginning at 4 pm, between expert women players using racquets instead of baskets. 6 games, 6 *quinielas*, and 4 daily doubles. Admission 4 pesos and up.

**Soccer** — Olympic Stadium, Ciudad de los Deportes, championship games for the Mexican Cup, among following teams: Puebla, Zacatepec, Cuauhtla, Atlante, Necaxa, Toluca, América, Guadalajara, León, Zamora, Atlas, Irapuato, Oro and Tampico. Games every Sunday at 12 noon. Tickets should be bought in advance from the Federación Mexicana de Fútbol, corner of Lucerna and Abraham González.

**Tennis** — Chapultepec Sports Club. Davis Cup tournament between Mexico and Brazil, on May 11-13 beginning at 3 pm. The Mexican team will probably include Fernando Llamas and Gustavo Palafox, and the Brazilian, Bob Malgengborg and Armando Vieira. For details call the Club, 14-39-02 or 11-48-48.

**Volley Ball** — Parque Deportivo Plan Sexenal, Calzada México-Tacuba. Major League competition. Games every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 5 and 9 pm. Participating teams will include Normal, Politécnico, Cofrades, UNAM, Teus and Inajumex.

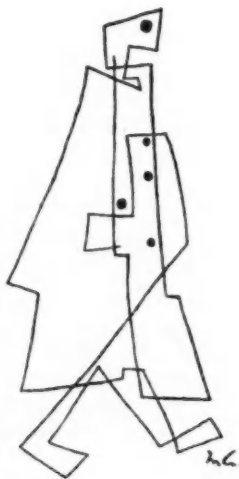
**Wrestling** — Arena Coliseo, Perú 77. Fights every Friday at 9 pm, every

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Sunday at 5 pm. In Mexico, as elsewhere, the names of the combatants help to excite the public interest: Blue Demon, *El Médico Asesino*, *La Máscara Roja*, *El Santo* and *Tar-zán López*.

## LORE

**Popular Entertainment** — In a cosmopolitan capital like Mexico City, the resident or visitor used to have scant opportunity to enjoy truly Mexican arts; only in the small parks of provincial towns was such entertainment available. But open-air musical, dance and theatrical programs are no longer confined to the Provinces. The Social Action Department of the Federal District, realizing that one of Mexico's most beautiful customs — that of entire

families spending long hours in the parks on Sunday — was about to become a thing of the past, established a program of Sunday concerts and other entertainment in the City's parks. Now, there is no fountain, or garden or public park without its Sunday-morning band, a pair of dancers, or theater group to offer passersby an hour or two of nostalgic entertainment.

Sunday programs in the parks begin at 12 noon and run until 3 pm. They may be enjoyed in the City's most beautiful parks, such as the Central Alameda, the Alameda of Santa María, Sullivan Park and Parque México; or in one of the smaller parks which still preserve a provincial flavor, like those in Tacubaya and Tlalpan.

**Rancho del Artista**, Av. Coyoacán 957. Mexican fiesta every Sunday from 1:30 to 3:30 pm, with special dinner service for tourists. Typical Mexican songs and music, regional dances. Exhibits of regional costumes and Mexican folk art.

**Hotel de Cortés**, Hidalgo 85 (behind the Alameda). This old Colonial-style hotel makes a production of Mexican fiestas every Saturday in the beautiful stone patio inside. Buffet and dinner served from 8 pm. Call 10-15-56 for reservations or information.

**Círculo Rodém (Rotary Club)**, Londres 15. Special programs for tourists every Friday at 9 pm. The most popular Mexican dances. Reservations at 25-09-20.

## Student Suitcase

Suitcases for summer schooling in Mexico have little in common with the trunks that go off to college in the States. This is Cactus League, not Ivy League, country; and the general rule is to dress for vacation and then go to school in it.

In some ways, packing for school in Mexico is almost the reverse of packing for a U.S. college. At home, you pack a wardrobe mainstay of major apparel; count on buying lesser pieces — like stockings, shoes and underwear — as the need arises. In Mexico, a school term stay (or any lengthy vacation here) means another kind of planning.

Stock up on underwear — Stateside brands cost double here, all synthetics are high in price and most of the newer ones (like Orlon and Dacron) are practically unavailable. Slips and stockings, blouses and shoes all present some shopping problems in Mexico, either because of price, quality, or difference in sizes. Mexican styles are designed for short-waisted, generously-hipped, small-footed women, and generally speaking, for short-to-medium men with correspondingly smaller feet. But you're likely to want to buy much of your day-to-day apparel in Mexico, where handwoven cottons and bull-fighter shirts, leather belts and sandals, and handcarved jewelry are abundant and beautiful.

What you wear will depend, of course, on where you go to school and what you study. In Mexico City, both the National University and Mexico City College ask for much walking: keep this in mind when you choose shoes. Summer weather is cool, with sunny mornings and afternoon showers: lightweight skirts and sweaters are ideal much of the time.

In most other parts of the country, the weather is warm; you can't have too many cottons. But from the University of Nuevo Leon to the University of Guanajuato to art school in Taxco, you still need sturdy shoes.

Women's playclothes, either for classroom or weekend trips, should be feminine. Blue jeans or slacks stay home, except for horseback rides or an occasional rugged field trip. Bring a couple of swimsuits — more if you're headed for Acapulco. And tuck in a lightweight rain coat, for any part of the country.

For study ease — bring a typewriter. To keep from looking too much a student — bring a travel iron. M.L.

## MEXICO / this month - EVERY MONTH!

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One of the functions of a wife, we are told, is to act as a sounding board for her husband's rantings on the theme of himself. If she is functioning properly, the wife's vibrations come back to the hero in comforting overtones, otherwise there is merely a flat reverberation which makes him sullen. Fortunately, wives like to think they have married great men; so they vibrate vigorously, illusions prosper, and the function is happily fulfilled.

We happened to be listening to a choir rehearsal the other evening when an elderly couple walked hesitantly into the church. A little later we were surprised to see that they had found a priest and were being quietly married in a corner. Afterward, they sat holding hands until the rehearsal was over, and then we didn't see them any more.

We know a Mrs. Gamboa who has a beauty parlor for dogs, to whom we send our hound for his bath. We think her name, like that of Balboa, gives a wide horizon to her pursuits. If it were any other we would bathe the hound ourselves, or not, according to our mood.

Being a wistful shareholder of Monsanto Chemical Co., we have read their annual report for 1955 with more than maidenly interest. The Chairman of the Board and the President joined hands in a charming introduction, attributing their newly found faith in pictures to the old Chinese maxim, and subtly making it apparent that they were breaking with the tradition of mere accounting in favor of literary disclosure. Captivated by the new prose, we quote: "Mobay Chemical Company's plant turned over successfully in November. We anticipate making substantial inroads this year into its accumulated deficit..." We would like to pay a tribute to the gentlemen of the chemical industry who are so clearly tending to their knitting, including that of hitherto unfurrowed brows, and to wish them future mastery of the elements.

Angus.

## Letters

### INTEREST IN ENGLISH

During the past few years, the active demand for English classes throughout the Republic of Mexico has increased to the point where existing institutions have had to turn prospective students away by the hundreds.

Perhaps the greatest single problem in the whole complexity of teaching English as a second language in Mexico is the inadequate number of teachers with the proper training in this highly specialized field. Here at the Mexican-North American Cultural Institute, one of our projects has been the training of native Americans or bi-lingual Mexicans for work as teachers of English as a second language. This training has been done through a 3-month, 50-hour course beginning in February, May and September of each year. The course is divided into 3 parts: a study of the sound system of English and its comparison with Spanish, a description of the structure patterns of English, and methods and techniques of teaching.

Up until the present time, these courses have been given to the relatively small group of people we have needed for our own classes. It has become apparent to us, however, that because of the ever increasing need for trained teachers throughout the Republic, an expanded program must be begun. The next training course will begin in May and is open to all native speakers of English living in Mexico, regardless of whether or not they have had any previous teaching experience. The one other qualification is an interest in working with teaching English as a second language as one of the many means to bring about better understanding between Mexicans and North Americans.

Thank you very much for anything *Mexico This Month* may be able to do to bring this facet of the promotion of better relations between Mexico and the U.S. to the attention of interested persons.

Gloria I. Wasielewski,  
Director of Courses  
Hamburgo 115  
Mexico 6, D. F.

### FRIENDS

For the past 16 years the American Friends Service Committee (Quaker) has been carrying on a program directed toward building friendship and understanding between the U.S. and Mexico by means of groups of young volunteers who have worked in rural areas, helping to build schools, drain swamps, install water systems, and improve the health, educational, and agricultural life of Mexican villages. These young people have come from all the States of the Union and have included members of all the major religious affiliations. To date, more than 3,000 of these volunteers have lived and worked in 55 villages throughout Mexico. They have offered their services without remuneration in these constructive projects of village improvement.

Early this year an appeal was received to send a Service Unit to the State of Veracruz to help the village of Jicaltepec, near Nautla, repair the damages caused by the hurricanes of last October. The plans for the project include helping the villagers repair their school, clear the mud and debris from the streets, fill in mosquito-breeding holes, and repair and white-wash all of the houses of the village. It will cost only about 6,000 dollars to put a Service Unit of 10 volunteers to work in Jicaltepec for one year. The village itself has offered to house the Unit rent-free and provide the necessary building materials for the reconstruction projects.

...We are writing to you to ask if you would like to have a share to the extent of a modest contribution of from 10 to 25 dollars in this rehabilitation project which goes beyond the short-term emergency needs of this village.

Your check (in dollars or pesos) may be made out to the American Friends Service Committee and sent to the Casa de los Amigos, Ignacio Mariscal 132, México 1, D. F. Your contribution will be deductible from U.S. income taxes.

Edwin Duckles.  
A.F.S.C. Representative  
México, D. F.

# person to person

William C. Mateer, author of *A Su Derecho Means Straight Ahead*, published in this issue, is a newspaperman who is on the staff of the Springfield, Ohio, *Daily News*. He says *Mexico This Month* is "read thoroughly by almost everyone on the staff," which naturally pleases us very much but also gives us stage fright.

We wrote Mr. Mateer to ask him some questions about certain phrases in his story, which puzzled us. He wrote as follows: "...Both my wife and I feel certain we heard the man say 'cerca' when he was telling us to go around the plaza and then to go straight ahead. I wrote 'en cerca,' which, as you pointed out and as I now realize, definitely is wrong, but 'cerca,' when used as a preposition, can mean 'around,' according to Velázquez' Spanish-English dictionary... As for my use of 'a su derecho'... could he possibly have said, 'hace derecho'? If so, this would make the sentence read, 'Cerca la (or circula la) plaza y hace derecho.'"

These explanations bewildered us further, but also moved us, and staff, to the deepest sympathy for Mr. Mateer and other travelers in the same predicament. It is obvious from his letter what the trouble is. Velázquez dictionary, Mr. Mateer. Junk it forthwith.

Our favorite plant, which appears on this month's cover, sublimated, is a tree-like shrub or shrub-like tree called in Spanish *Palo Bobo* — Boob Stick. Also *Palo Loco* (Crazy Stick) or *Palo Tonto* (Fool Stick).

These names, given more in affection than disdain, are due to the fact that the *Palo* in question is a plant that ignores all the rules and regulations of normal, wellbred vegetation and lives, grows, bursts into leaf or bloom according to some system of its own, flouting and conquering the laws of Nature.

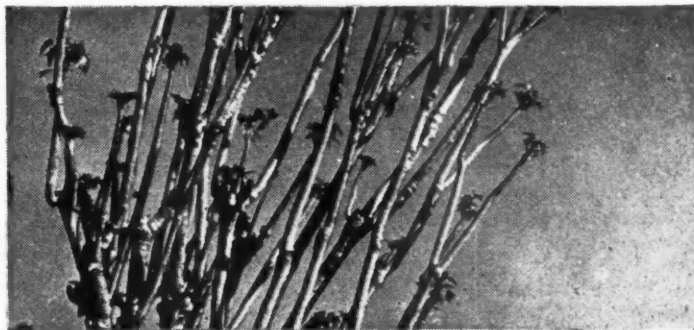
Instead of earth, good, moist dark dirt rich in humus and phosphates and organic matter and complete with earthworms to aerate it, the *Palo Bobo* by preference sinks its roots like eagle's claws, into lava rock, but it will also do well in shale, rubble, limestone

and clay. We haven't tried it in macadam or concrete but have no doubt it would find a way to live and flourish even there.

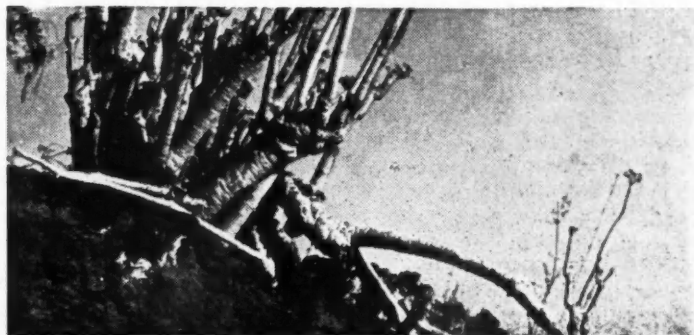
It blooms — delicate sprays of tender yellow bursting from its bark, which is gray and rubbery like elephant hide — at the height of the dry season; and having bloomed, goes into leaf, with no grace but much profusion.



If you wish to plant a *Palo Bobo* you may do so from any part of it — the roots alone, or a branch or stalk. Or you can cut it up and plant it in portions and all of it will live. Nothing, apparently, can faze or permanently discourage this wonderful stick.



Boob Trees are planted in quantity over the immense grounds of Mexico's University City, along with other relatives from the nearby lava fields from which much of its stone was also quarried. No doubt this was just good, logical landscaping and no symbol intended.



# News and Comment

## Frog Men

Down to the sea in aqua-lungs is the new plan of the Mexican Navy Department which recently announced the formation of a group of Frog-Men or Miners of the Sea, as they will be called, to explore along the depths of Mexico's tremendous coastline. The first groups will be stationed at Acapulco, Veracruz, Ensenada and Isla Marga-

rita. Among their primary projects will be the investigation of possible petroleum deposits as well as other mineral and vegetable matter.

## Milton

Milton Eisenhower's Pan American Day speech before the Pan American Union in Washington, in which he commented that the "Good Neighbor"

policy is being replaced by the "Good Partner" policy, highlighted the steady rhythm of increasing Mexico-U.S. business and was received very favorably here.

## Tourist Chief

Dr. Francisco Villagrán, Mexico's new Director General of Tourism, has many years of experience in international activities and a wide background culturally, to qualify him for this post. Originally on the faculty of the National University, during which time he was a frequent visitor to the U.S. in the role of lecturer and teacher, he switched to the field of diplomacy, serving as Consul General first in Los Angeles, then in New York.

## New Bank

The National Bank of Commerce of New Orleans celebrated the opening of its Mexico City office. Principal function will be to foster relations between New Orleans and Latin America — in line with the New Orleans conference of last year.

## Racing Pulse

Probably the most popular race in Mexico is the annual bicycle race, run over a 1,350 mile circular route through the cities of the central plateau. The cyclists often reach a velocity of 60 miles over hill and mountain with some of the course taking them up as high as 10,000 feet. This year's race was just won by Rafael Vaca, who during races limits his food intake to sugar water and honey, and attributes a great deal of his success to his very low pulse rate — 53-54.

## Fair Aid

Sixty California farmers, members of the California Farm Bureau, arrived in Guadalajara, invited to help organizers of the First Corn Fair in that city put on their agricultural show. During their stay they also made the trip to Mexico City to meet and talk with Agricultural Secretary Gilberto Flores Muñoz. The fair in Guadalajara, which will be held from May 5 to June 3, will have its light as well as its educational side, including rodeos, cockfights, regional dances, etc.

## SOVEREIGNTY OF THE SEAS

By Lic. Manuel J. Sierra,  
Delegate from Mexico to the  
III International Jurists' Conference

*The International Jurists' Conference in Ciudad Trujillo acquires special significance from the fact that it was possible to obtain the unanimous support of all the American republics to an agreement on some of the difficult questions related to the sovereignty of the seas.*

*Those that refer to the utilization of marine resources, during the passage of time, have achieved maximum importance; the problems of food in the face of constant pressure from the entire world, the rising demographic index, have placed in the front line the problem of taking advantage of the great reserves which the sea holds for the diet and health of man.*

*Before, everything related to the authority, jurisdiction, or control, that is to say, to the sovereignty of the coastal state over the waters that gird it, was based principally on security. Thus was born the three-mile principle, based in its epoch, at the beginning of the 18th century, on the range of a cannon. Such criteria can no longer serve to support the three-mile principle. The radius of military action has increased in a proportion that is not possible to imagine; and one must necessarily resort to other factors in order to establish the rights to the sea in the future, and these factors must inevitably be economic and social.*

*In the last two meetings, in Mexico and Ciudad Trujillo, considerable progress was made on two points: first, recognition of the special interest of the coastal state, as establishing the right of conservation and exploitation of marine species found off its coasts and on the high seas, as far as exploitation possibilities extend; and second, the exclusive right, that is, the sovereignty of the state over the bed or reaches of the Continental Platform and of all other submarine area, which in reality is nothing more than a submerged portion of its own territory.*

*With regard to the extension that must be given to the territorial sea, since the three-mile limit now has very few supporters, and with respect to the sovereignty of the state over the waters that cover the Continental Platform, no agreement has yet been reached; each country maintains its position in the matter, fixed by its own laws or by international treaties.*

*Faced with the cogency of the facts, in a short time the few countries that still talk of the three-mile limit will recognize its inadequacy to guarantee the ends sought in accepting the sovereignty of the states over the sea along their shorelines.*

May ushers in the summer rainy season, and with it, green fields and the first fruits of the land. This coming-to-life of parched earth in a land where most people live directly from the earth is met with celebrations of joy and thanksgiving, one of which is perhaps the only pre-conquest ceremony still performed unchanged today.

This spectacular ceremony is the "dance" of the *voladores* (flyers), once performed in many parts of Mexico, but surviving now only in the eastern part of the Sierra Madre near the Gulf of Mexico, principally among the Totonac Indians in the Papantla, Veracruz region. (See *Mexico This Month*, June 1955). Dancers ascend a pole that may be 90 feet high, to dance on a fragile platform, then tie ropes around their waists and launch themselves backwards into the air, in a breathtaking rite that now honors the four cardinal points, and originally, the deities of earth and vegetation.

Corpus Christi Day brings other celebrations (see next two pages), less spectacular, but equally identified with "first fruits."

(Continued on page 25)

in May

The *voladores* (flying men) of Papantla, Veracruz, spiral through a hot May sky in their ancestral dance to the "four directions," performed on Corpus Christi Thursday.



Photo Mayo



Photo Otto Done

Metepec woman adds bright paint designs to clay figures for the Toluca Fair.

# Corpus Christi



*Corpus Christi, the day on which the Church commemorates the service of Holy Communion, coincides in Mexico with "first fruits" celebrations. Left: crowds gather in front of the Cathedral in Mexico City, and merchants spread their mats of goodies and gifts.*

*Day of miniatures, Corpus Christi is by nature a day for children. Tots dressed in peasant costumes bring little crates of symbolic offerings to church. Gift of the day: straw mules that carry toys, fruit, candy.*

*Plumed Indians in embroidered costumes dance their ancient ceremonial dances in the Cathedral courtyard (below). Dances, costumes, and Masses in the churches mark the day, which is festively enhanced by the custom of exchanging gifts celebrating spring.*

Photos Otto Done







Summer school students at the old San Cosme campus of the National University practice Mexican folk dances. A noncredit course, it leads to creditable performances. This class, like its state-later counterparts in Mexican art, history, Spanish language, will be held in University City this Summer.

Photo Mayo

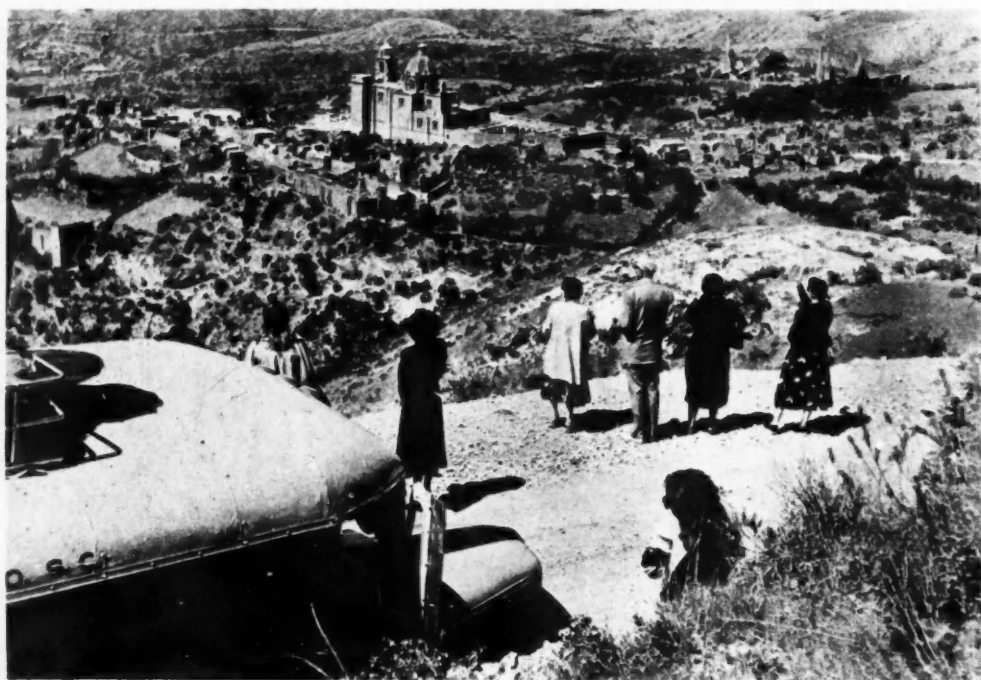


Photo Mayo

Above: Summer students from San Miguel's Instituto Allende pause on a field trip for a first look at Guanajuato. Right: 1955 summer students were the first to meet in new University City.



# LIVE AND LEARN

Mexico's summer universities, seminars and workshops, scattered throughout the country, draw thousands of foreign students every year

By Jerry Olson

When the National University of Mexico first launched its now famous summer school in the middle 1920's the sensation created by all the *gringuitas* — but especially the tall, bonde, and sweated — was such that every noon the doors of the old building were pretty well barricaded by eager Lohrarios. The girls had almost to wrestle their way out.

That was years ago; and the sight of a Californian (*que monumento!*) in bright casual clothes and with books under her arm is now taken for granted even in the smaller towns, come June. Schools, and students, have both multiplied, so that today a summer in Mexico, spent studying, cuts across a very wide range of interests and tastes, and brings students, once mostly Texan and Californian, from every state.

Patterned after the usual college short summer session, the first Escuela de Verano attracted students with its slender curriculum in Spanish Language and Literature, and Mexican Culture. The immediate advantages of school in Mexico were obvious: there was no better way to learn a foreign language; a favorable exchange rate assured a long stretch to U.S. students' dollars; a foreign school was certain to be a lark, an unacademic vacation from the routine of chilly 8 o'clock classes. In those early days, very few were interested in grades or credits.

But there was Something else — Something in the air or in the classes or in the life itself — that worked a subtle magic. Summer school scholars very soon weren't content with the short summer months. Many sought to transfer into the regular sessions of

the Universidad Nacional. Finally, in the 1940's, the parent university recognized the need and set up Summer School on a year-round basis. The prodigious "Summer School" was soon granting Bachelors' and Masters' degrees, eventually even the PhD.

Meanwhile the United States generally was waking up to the fact of Mexico. An artistic fringe, both the serious workers and the bohemians for Bohemia's sake, discovered the Something in the land of eternal spring and perpetually fat dollars; they applied the Spanish word *ambiente* to it and said it was conducive to creative work. Colonies of writers and painters grew in several of Mexico's cities and villages. Organized classes and schools followed in turn.

(Continued on page 17)

## SUMMER SCHOOLS

**ESCUELA DE VERANO**, Ciudad Universitaria, México 20, D. F. July 2-August 18. Spanish language, Spanish, Mexican and Latin American literature and history, archaeology, fine arts and craft arts. Special seminar for teachers of Spanish. Graduate and undergraduate students accepted. Help in housing. Registration fee \$75 for three courses of 2 credits each, and two as an auditor. Write Rosa Maria Stephenson Guizar, Registrar of the Summer School, at above address.

**MEXICO CITY COLLEGE**, Km. 16 Carretera México-Toluca, México 10, D. F. June 12-July 17 and July 18-August 24. Spanish language and literature. Mexican history, economics, politics. Workshops on Mexican culture, anthropology, art. Guest instructors in Creative Writing workshops. Help in housing. Cost approximately \$67.50 for 5-week session. Write Dean of Admissions at address above.

**UNIVERSIDAD DE GUANAJUATO**, Guanajuato, Gto., México, July 2-August 17. Courses include Spanish and Spanish literature, Mexican literature, Mexican indepen-

dence history. Limited enrollment. Fees \$40 for three courses. Write Director, Escuela de Verano, at above address.

**INSTITUTO TECNOLÓGICO Y DE ESTUDIOS SUPERIORES**, Monterrey, Nuevo León, México. Six weeks beginning in mid-July. Classes for teachers in Grammar of Modern English, Teaching English as a Second Language in the Primary Grades. Write Summer Session Director at above address.

**INSTITUTO ALLENDE**, San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, México. Twelve weeks starting June 10. Art, handicraft arts, and writing courses under the sponsorship of the State University at Guanajuato. Fees of \$40 per month or \$105 for the 3-month semester. The school operates a hotel where accommodations can be arranged. Write Stirling Dickinson, at above address.

**CENTRO MEXICANO DE ESCRITORES**, Volga 3, México, D. F. June 10-July 18. Subjects include Direct Observation and Fiction Writing. Author-Publisher Relations. Fees \$12 per course. Write Margaret Shedd, Director, at above address.

**TAXCO SCHOOL OF ART**, Taxco, Guerrero, México. Tutoring in painting and handicraft arts. Write Fidel Figueroa at the address above.

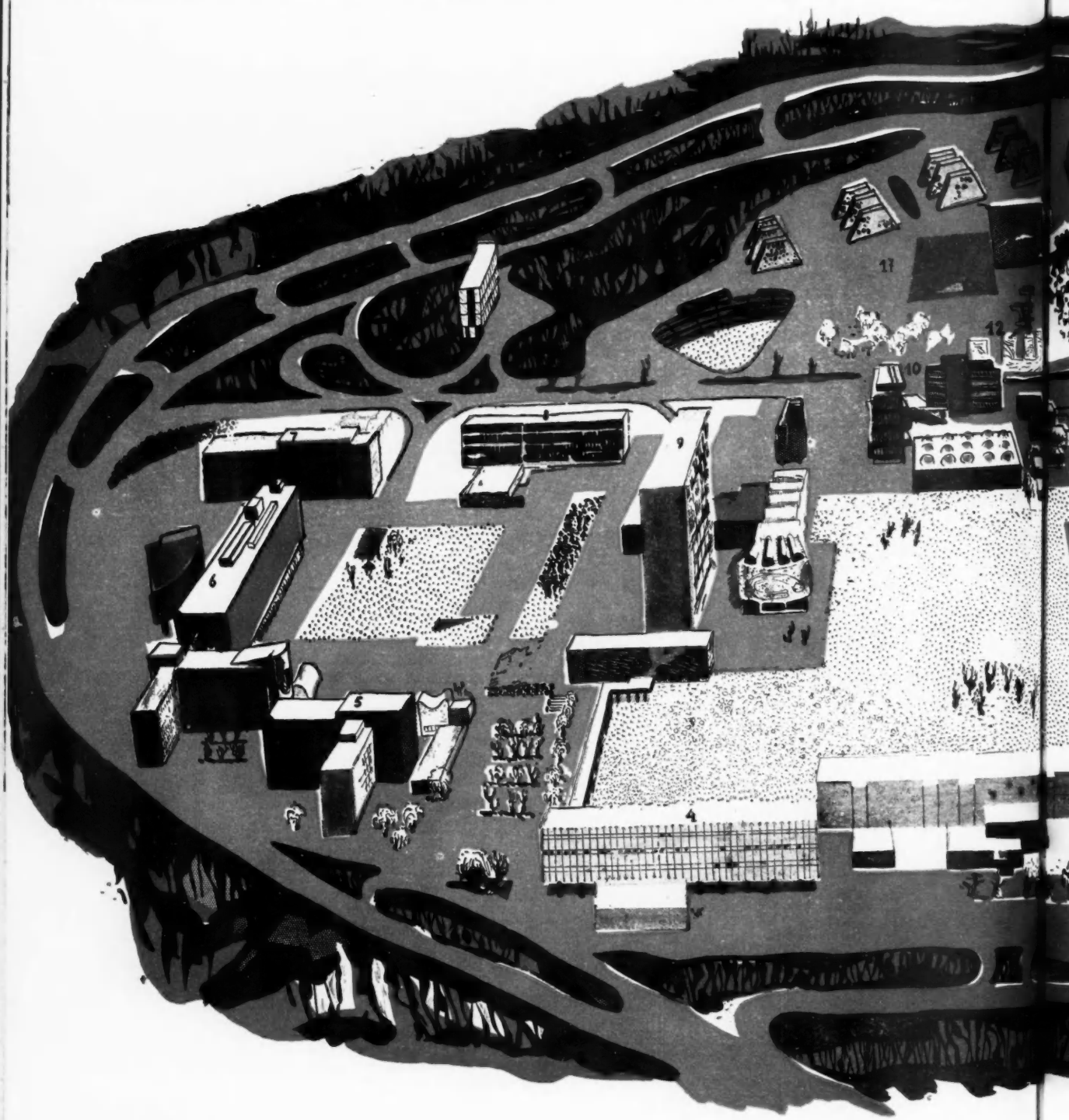
**LOWELL FINISHING SCHOOL**, Zacatecas 184, Colonia Roma, México, D. F. July 5-August 31. Cultural courses, arts and crafts, special tutoring in Spanish for teen-age girls. Costs \$300 for the summer including board, room and laundry. Guided tours extra. Limited enrollment. Write Sra. Angela Martínez del Río, Director, at above address.

**SUMMER SCHOOL AT ACAPULCO**, Guerrero, México. June 29-August 12. Classes in Spanish language and literature, history of Mexico, fine arts and aquatic sports. Affiliated with State College of Guerrero. Fees \$80. Write Xavier Campos Ponce, Director, State College of Guerrero, Chilpancingo, Gro., México.

**COLEGIO DE PATZCUARO**, Patzcuaro, Mich., México. A part of the Michoacán State University, the Colegio de Patzcuaro offers three weeks of study and excursion. August 6-25. Basic course on Mexican Culture. Tuition of \$80 covers intensive series of 40 lectures on Pre-Hispanic, Colonial, Independence and Current periods of Mexican history. For information write Gustavo Corona, Gabriel Mancera 249, México 12, D. F.

**UNIVERSITY OF SONORA**, Hermosillo, Sonora, México. Possible summer school planned to be held in Alamos. For details write Ing. Norberto Aguirre, Rector, at the above address.

# EXPLORERS' MAP OF U

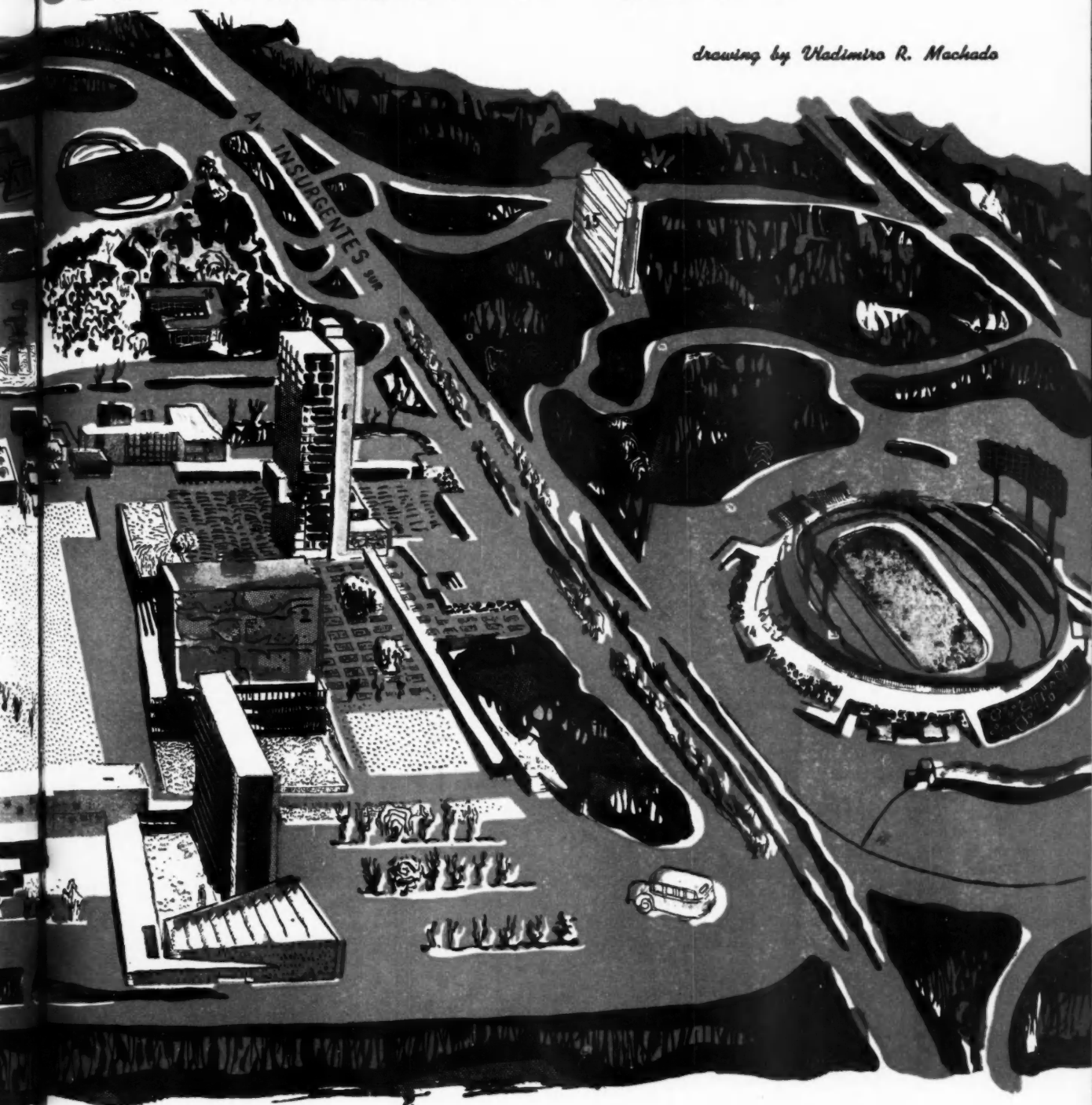


**Rectory (1)**  
**Library (2)**  
**Humanities (3)**  
**Commerce (4)**  
**Nuclear Energy and Cosmic Ray Laboratories;**

**In Same Area, Dentistry (5)**  
**Medicine (6)**  
**Veterinary Medicine (7)**  
**Chemical Sciences (8)**  
**Science (9)**

# UNIVERSITY CITY

*drawing by* **Wladimiro R. Machado**



(5)

**Engineering; Nearby, Geology (10)  
Architecture; Nearby, Central Club  
and Coffee Shop (11)  
Olympic Swimming Pool (12)  
Exhibitions (13)**

**Stadium (14)  
Professors' Homes (15)  
Offices of University City (16)  
Athletic Grounds (17)**

# University City

The grandfather of summer schools in Mexico, the National University, is at home this year in its own entire city stretched across the gaunt gray rocks of The Pedregal. Its stark and colorful buildings, brilliant examples of the combined thoughts and efforts of many of the country's most noted architects and artists, rise from the hard lava flow that centuries ago covered one of Mexico's earliest civilizations.

The shining city is the result of a tradition that began in 1551, with the founding of the University of Mexico, America's first institution of higher learning.

As the city grew, so did the University, adding courses and colleges, staff, students and buildings. Most of the latter were made over from convents, monasteries or colonial palaces, provided by the government from its real estate holdings of public properties. At first concentrated downtown in the old city, they were eventually scattered over a wide area of the fast-growing modern capital. The most important colleges and departments were situated in the densely busy center of town surrounded by heavy traffic, with no room to grow, and less than enough class room for the students already attending.

The idea of a University City began with the great educator Justo Sierra, founder of the National University, who in 1910 gave modern form to the old semi-medieval University of Mexico. Six successive rectors kept the dream alive and attempted to make it a reality. A national planning contest, won by professors and students of the National School of Architecture working together, gave birth to the idea of the project as one to be carried out in collaboration by many architects, engineers and designers.

But the project remained a dream and a plan only, until 1950, when Miguel Alemán, at that time President of the Republic, gave it backing.

The late Carlos Lazo was named General Coordinator of University City, and the immense labor of realization began, guided by architect Lazo's dynamic and modern system of

organization. Three basic departments were created within the general management; a department of plans and investments, headed by architect García Travesí; a department of works, headed by engineer Bracamontes; and a department of relations, headed by lawyer Moratinos. Administration and legal protection departments were also

created, as well as a coordinating department. At the same time, the coordination of the planning itself was carried on by the widely experienced architectural team of Pani-Del Masal.

What has since been called the "mystic element" of University City — a multitude of thoughts and talents directed with singleminded force towards one goal — developed within this framework. The goal was realization; the slogan, to "strike the flame of the improbable in the minds of the skeptics."

An immense team of more than 150 architects, engineers and artists; almost 100 contracting companies; more than 10,000 laborers, the largest such force ever assembled in Latin America; and an investment of more than 200 million pesos, brought the goal in sight within three years.

Planning was careful and thorough. Experts checked their terrain, came up with new and exciting ideas in construction: a stadium, built like a volcano, with earth thrown up from the excavation to form sides that vary in depth and put the majority of seats close to the 50-yard line. And a cosmic rays laboratory, looking oddly like a covered wagon, with a roof of concrete stretched over a scientifically designed framework.

Designers, hunting for a form of architecture both functionally modern and intensely Mexican, conceived such projects as ball courts shaped like pyramids; a library building with a central cone for light and ventilation, and exterior walls covered with mosaic murals.

Mexican muralists found new impetus for their national art on the broad walls of the new buildings: Tamayo, Juan O'Gorman, Rivera, Siqueiros, José Chávez Morado and others created murals, and new techniques such as stone mosaics, for the color-in-design that gives to the campus its unique, exciting beauty.

Construction on such final buildings as student dormitories continues. But most major elements of the University, including the constantly growing summer school, are now at home in their own vast and beautiful city.



## Alphabetical Key to University City Map

- Architecture (11)
- Athletic Grounds (17)
- Central Club and Coffee Shop (11)
- Chemical Sciences (8)
- Commerce (4)
- Dentistry (5)
- Engineering (10)
- Exhibitions (13)
- Geology (10)
- Humanities (3)
- Library (2)
- Medicine (6)
- Nuclear Energy and Cosmic Ray Laboratories (5)
- Offices of University City (16)
- Olympic Swimming Pool (12)
- Professors' Homes (15)
- Rectory (1)
- Science (9)
- Stadium (14)
- Veterinary Medicine (7)

# LIVE AND LEARN

(Continued from page 13)

Teachers (especially of Spanish and literature in Spanish) felt the trend and followed into Mexico for summer work. Always, there was that Something, something extra about study in Mexico. For dozens, a summer in Mexico became an annual event.

Early in the '40's, Mexico City College was organized as a U.S.-style institution. Colleges and universities in several of the provinces awakened to the demand and began to offer programs for summer work. Colleges in the U.S. organized one and two-month intensive study sessions in cooperation with one or another of Mexico's established schools.

By 1945 and 1946 when the waves of veterans, newly armed with the G.I. Bill, reached Mexico, the appetites for learning the Mexico way shifted into high gear. The inquisitive, the reckless, the scholarly and the rejected flocked across the border, particularly in the summer season, to collect in classrooms or on archaeological sites (with spades and brushes), in picturesque streets and wooded slopes (with paints and canvas), or at historical landmarks — the Juárez-slept-here, Maximilian-stood-here, Cortés-lived here sort of places.

Whatever their drives or yearnings, the students came. Many lived with Mexican families and discovered their liveliest classroom at the dinner table. They rented apartments and houses in Mexican neighborhoods, hired Mexican servants, learned to eat Mexico's unusual foods and drink her exotic liquors, sing falsetto and ease into the dramatic, difficult rhythm of Mexico's way of dancing — and living. They enjoyed the privileged position of the uninitiated with no reason to recognize class barriers and social distinctions: the doors of workingmen's bars, elite homes, cultural societies were all alike to them, always open. So it didn't really matter what the student's intentions for Mexican study were, he was always and forever in an eye-opening, learning environment. And that's what that Something was: a new, interesting, exciting way of living; and glimpses too, of a country at once ancient and



School of Medicine at University City (above) is austere, imposing, set within an immense stone courtyard. Below: last year's summer students were the first to gather in the central club and coffee shop.



(Continued on page 19)



*Art brings many summer students to Mexico. Above: Camera class from Allende Institute check lens setting for the deceptively bright sunshine of Guanajuato. Below: Summer student-art critics give one of the frequent open-air exhibits a going over. Right: Students from the University of Nuevo León stop by the Carapan in Monterrey, which displays fine arts from all over the Republic.*



# LIVE AND LEARN

(Continued from page 17)

youthfully vigorous, pulling itself up into the twentieth century by its bootstraps.

Mexico's schools, old and new, hurried to respond to the pressure of burgeoning demand. Classes and curriculums proliferated in a hundred directions. Each summer opens up the range of possibilities for the student from North of the Border. This year, three thousand full-time students are expected in the twenty-odd institutions and study groups scattered over the Republic. One group, for example, will wander for eight weeks through the Yucatán peninsula on a field-trip survey of ancient cultures conducted by the National Institute of Anthropology. Scores of student writers will work under the direction of professionals and summer profs in at least three different Writing Centers. Painters, sculptors, muralists will explore new and old techniques. Teachers and

students of language, literature history, sociology, what-have-you, will work at their professional chores, having fun meanwhile. And there will even be organized classes in water-skiing, skin-diving, and bullfighting at Acapulco's own inimitable Summer School, now only in its second year.

Time has brought other refinements. Girls at Mexico City's Lowell Finishing School will be housed in the traditional home of the school's directress; at San Miguel de Allende, writers and artists will put up at the first class hotel operated by the school, Instituto Allende.

But there has been no change in one aspect of the study-in-Mexico experience: wherever they live and whatever they study or work at, 1956 Summer students will be in contact with that Something alive and fascinating that drew the first students here.

Many have come back again and again. And more than a few have stayed, and, now *señoras de casa*, married and dignified, nevertheless keep an eager, interested eye on the rich cultural fare offered by the Escuelas de Verano.



Summer student catches up on history in beautiful new library building at University City. Below: Mexico City College campus is ivy-covered and modern.



Photo Otto Done



## THEATER

The success of Mexico's experimentation with a new venture, open-air theater, brings *Como Gustéis* (Shakespeare's *As You Like It*), in Chapultepec Woods. Directed by Raúl Cardona and presented by the Federal District's Department of Social Action, the play unfolds among spectacular old trees and rocky slopes. Presented first in April, it is scheduled to continue Sunday mornings through May and after, if the rainy season comes late this year.

## TWO BOOKS ABOUT



The late José Clemente Orozco is news in the local publishing world this Spring, with the issue of two new books, by two of the persons most closely associated with this famous artist's name.

Alma Reed (see photo), who met Orozco in New York in the late 1920's and did much to introduce his art in the U.S., published her book in Spanish early this year, and an English translation last month.

## New Horizons

The great wonder of the atom is the bright promise it holds for miraculous benefit to mankind everywhere. Generation of power by means of atomic reactors will bring greater productivity throughout the world, including many areas not blessed with an abundance of falling water or coal. In agriculture, industry, science, and medicine, one may already discern the beginnings of many wondrous developments based on the use of radioactive isotopes.

What of the atom bomb? As the result of horrible experiences in World War I, great nations went down to humiliating defeat in World War II without resorting to readily available poison gases or bacteria. Is it too much to expect comparable restraint in the military use of nuclear fission or fusion, should the disaster of war again overtake us?

The Anaconda Company, a leading producer of copper in the United States, Chile, and Mexico, and a large U. S. producer of uranium ores and concentrates, pledges itself to work unremittingly in the interest of peaceful applications of atomic energy. Meanwhile, freedom can make nations great. Their industries can make them strong.

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\* In Mexico, these three Anaconda Companies are helping to strengthen industrial development by cooperating in copper refining and the manufacture of wire and brass mill products.

## OROZCO...

**M**exican art critic Justino Fernández, who performed the oddly necessary job of "introducing" Orozco to critics and buyers of this country, has also written a closeup of the artist as he knew him.

The biographer, as an interpreter of the significance of a man's life, is also a creator of myths. His art reflects not deliberate distortion, but rather this simple fact: what remains of a man after his death is the image we ourselves make of him.

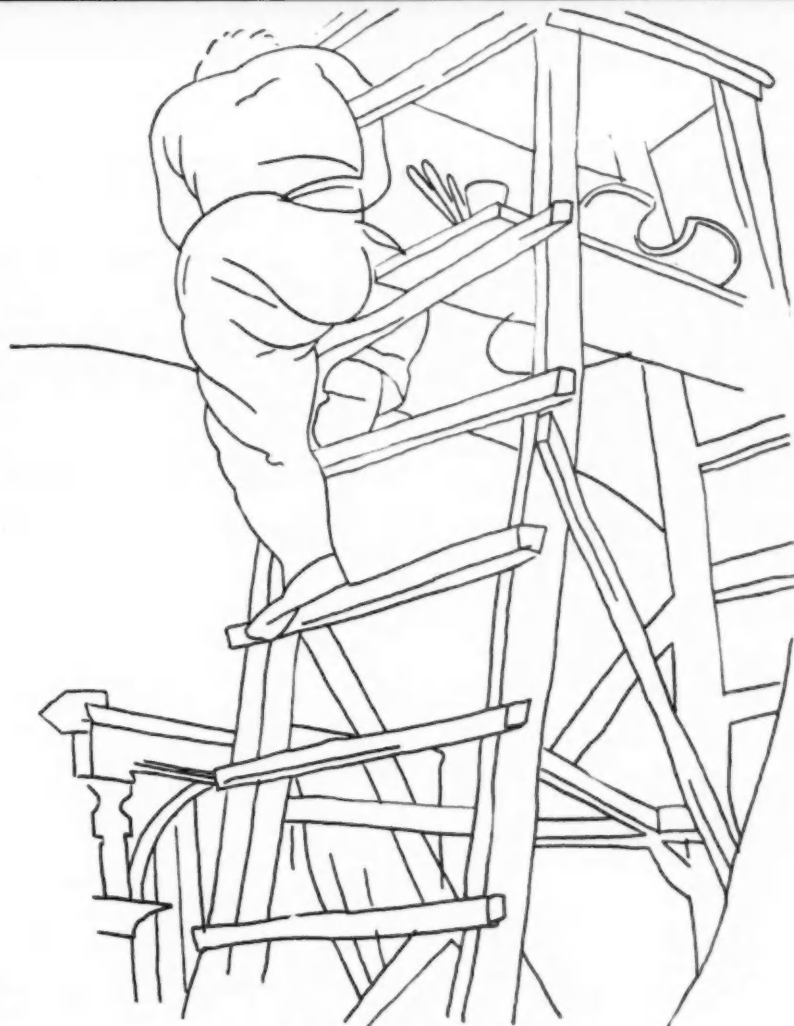
In her careful discussion, Alma Reed, an already legendary figure whose place in history is guaranteed by her association with the lives of two great men, reveals an image of Orozco a bit too colored with romantic idealism. It is an image in complete contrast to the man Orozco's own works reveal: an aggressive and restless personality far removed from the sensual romanticism of the French school.

In the development of an artist many factors and many persons intervene. It is precisely in this that the value of Miss Reed's book lies, when she tells about one of the most important chapters in the life of Orozco: his introduction to the Sikelianos "salon". This circle, which brought together intellectual celebrities from all over the world, was able to awaken in Orozco, if not the conscience of genius, at any rate the desire for universality.

The second book on Orozco contains 12 letters written by the artist, with comments by his official biographer Justino Fernández. This book contains two or three moments of real interest — for example, when Fernández records details of a conversation between the two on metaphysics and the sense of ethics.

It is unfortunate that, up to the present time, writers who have discussed Orozco have concentrated their efforts on producing a too-idyllic portrait of his personality, thus one-sidedly serving a figure whose grandeur lies, perhaps more than anything else, in his great violence of feeling and complexity of character.

Tristán Nava.



Orozco at Work, drawing by Jean Charlat.

## MOZART

The Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes is celebrating, throughout this year, the birth and music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

On January 26, Herrera de la Fuente directed the National Symphony Orchestra in the first all-Mozart concert, with Angélica Morales playing the 26th Piano Concerto, and Irma González singing various Mozart arias. On January 27 the unveiling of a commemorative plaque took place, with dedicatory speeches by the Director of the Institute, Miguel Alvarez Acosta, and the Commercial Attaché of the Austrian Embassy, Dr. Rudolph Baumann, followed by the Concerto in G for Clavichord and Orchestra of Mozart.

On February 23, the National Symphony Orchestra gave an all-Mozart series of concerts featuring the Bas-

soon Concerto in B-flat, played by Luis Salomons. And on March 23 *The Magic Flute* was given with great success under the direction of Dr. Ernst Roemer. In April, the Mozart Requiem was presented by the famous Boys' Choir of Morelia under Román Picutti.

In June, Antione Bavier will lead the National Symphony Orchestra in two concerts. In July, a ballet based on music by Mozart is scheduled, while in August *Così Fan Tutti* will be given by the National Opera group. In September, *Don Giovanni*, will be presented.

*Bodas de Figaro*, as well as the Lener Quartet and the presentation of *The Impresario and Bastien y Bastienne*, are tentatively scheduled for October. In November and December, the Mozart cycle will close with two series of concerts by the National Symphony Orchestra. J.R.H.

# A su Derecha Means Straight Ahead

By Bill Mateer

The plaza at Dolores Hidalgo looked so inviting we decided to rest there a bit before going on to our destination, San Miguel de Allende. As we drove up to the curb my wife was still berating me for taking the back road from Guanajuato when we could have taken a smooth blacktop highway.

"And furthermore," said my wife as we relaxed, "don't rely so much on your Spanish. To phrase it politely,

times a day, even beefsteak can become tiresome."

"You don't appreciate me," I said. "Just watch me get us to San Miguel but pronto."

I hailed a man who had just sat down on a bench nearby.

"Señor," I called.

"Sí, Señor?" he said, getting up and walking toward us with a friendly smile.

"Señor," I said, "¿dónde está el camino a San Miguel?"

"Por nada," he said with a polite bow and another smile.

Here was a real gentleman, I thought as I watched him go back to his bench and sit down.

"What did he say?" asked my wife.

"He said," I told her, "that it was easy enough. He told me to go *en cerca la plaza y a mi derecha*."

"What does that mean?"

"Get in the car and I'll show you," said I smoothly.



you are not an expert in the language."

Now, I admit it had been a mistake to take the back road, and I admit that I'm not too well acquainted with all of Cervantes, but I must also admit that I was a bit peeved when my wife did not recognize me for the whiz I was in conversational Spanish. Had I not won three A's in the subject in college? (In truth, I had not.) Had I not been complimented on my magnificent accent by the Señora Hernández when I bought two sarapes from her? Had I not navigated us superbly throughout Mexico, reading road signs almost at will and ordering *biftec* from Spanish menus like a native?

"All very fine," said my wife, "but just once I'd like some ham and eggs for breakfast. When you have it three

"That means where is the road to San Miguel," I said to my wife, winking to rub in the fact that I had a real grasp of this language.

"Señor," my Mexican friend asked, "habla Ud. el Español?"

I laughed nonchalantly.

"Of course," I said. "Ciertamente."

"Tell him to speak slowly, that you don't understand Spanish every well and that you'd like him to point the way," my wife said.

Ah, my prosaic wife!

I then asked him how we could get to the main road.

"Es fácil," he said. "En cerca la plaza, entonces a su derecha." Or anyway, that is how it sounded to me.

"Ah, gracias, Señor. Muchas gracias."

"Well, then, buenos días, Señor."

"Buenos días."

I drove around the plaza in a lordly manner. I was lucky to remember that phrase, I thought. *En cerca* means to go around. Make the circle. Latin roots. So, after making the circle, I saw a road leading to the right and I turned a *mi derecha*, to my right. We had not gone a block, however, until I realized I had been given the wrong directions. This street was a dead-end. So I turned around and headed back to the man on the plaza bench.

I said in Spanish, a bit disgustedly, "I'm afraid:

"We want the road to San Miguel. Señor."

He looked perplexed.

"Sí, Señor. En cerca la plaza y a

su derecho. Comprende Ud.?"

Of course, I understood. Sometimes my ear did not catch all the little a's and o's at the end of words, but I knew the phrase *en cerca* was circle for sure, and I knew that *izquierdo* (or is it *izquierda*?) means left and *derecha* means right. I decided that perhaps I had just taken the wrong turn.

"O.K., Señor. Muchas gracias."

"Por nada."

"Buenos días."

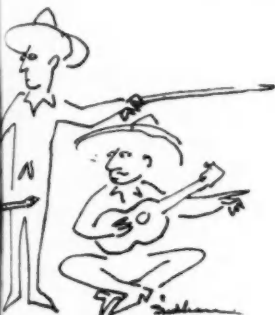
"Buenos días."

Again I drove around the plaza. This time I did not take the first road to my right. I took the second. This led us to a little house and a field of corn. I returned to the plaza.

By now there were several persons looking at us, evidently wondering why we were motoring around the plaza, in and out of corn fields and then circling again.

"Señor," I said to my Mexican friend, "por favor, dónde está el camino a San Miguel?"

He seemed almost shocked.



"Señor, habla Ud. el Español?"

"Ciertamente."

Again he gave me directions. This time he pointed the way around the plaza. Or so I thought. Then, with a sweep of his hand, he said, "A su derecho."

People were watching us from all over the plaza now. Several were within earshot of our voices, and I saw them nod as he pointed the way. In their minds, evidently, I was the one who was making the mistakes. Absurd.

Again we started off.

"Gracias, Señor," I called.

"Por nada."

"Buenos días."

"Buenos días."

This time we ended up on what looked like a railroad siding.

It was getting late. I was tired. My wife was tired. When I drove up in front of him again, my Mexican friend looked tired too.

"Señor," I began... But he threw up his hands before I could speak more.

"Derecho," he said. "Derecho!"

As he said it he looked at some people across the street and motioned them toward him. He said something to them in Spanish that I did not understand, and they hurried to the opposite side of the plaza. Then my friend looked at me.

"Señor," he said rather briskly, "Cerca la plaza y derecho."

"Señor," I said. "Muchas gracias."

"Por nada!"

"Buenos días."

"Buenas tardes!"

This time as we started out I noticed that most of the village was lined up around the plaza. We went slowly, and everyone waved a greeting to us. Then, with arms outstretched, they pointed the way.

"Derecho," they said in chorus with broad smiles. It sounded funny to me, "to the right". Should have an "a" at the end. No doubt a peasant idiom, I thought.

We smiled and waved back.

We circled the plaza once more, and I tried to turn right, but a human cordon would not let us enter this roadway I had not tried before. They just pointed with their arms, laughed and chanted, "Derecho! Derecho! Derecho!"

It was the same thing at the next intersection. I tried to follow instructions and turn right again, but again we were met with smiling faces and the chant, "Derecho, derecho!"

They forced us to go straight ahead. Then, a few hundred feet ahead, we saw the beautiful blacktopped highway and a sign pointing to San Miguel.

I heard a cheer go up, and I looked back in time to see a crowd of villagers waving their hats wildly in a joyful farewell to us.

"Wonderful people," I said.

Just about this time my wife, who was fumbling with a Spanish-English dictionary I never used, began to chant like the villagers, "Derecho, derecho, derecho."

She put the dictionary before my eyes and pointed out the word *derecho*. *Derecho* with an "o" at the end. "Straight ahead," it said.

"Oh," I said.

"Yes," she said, "O".

## Quote

### Worth Remembering

"Education is the foundation of a people's prosperity, and at the same time the surest means of preventing abuses of power."

BENITO JUAREZ  
PRESIDENT OF MEXICO

in a  
Declaration to the Nation  
July 7, 1859

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# Do-it-yourself

## Grab and Pinch

It is our highest aim in this section to give our readers scope. Scope to realize their potentialities, uncovering their subconscious ambitions, and achieving those heights which will make of them truly satisfied individuals. In a word — fulfilled.

It is our feeling that perhaps a great deal of the blame for so many frustrated lives can be laid to a lack of proper guidance in the tender, formative years. Adults look fondly upon the child who expresses a desire to be a cowboy or a fireman, or when he is older, a doctor or lawyer, but where is the youth counselor who can forget his Kohlrshach blots, his manual dexterity and I.Q. tests and has the foresight and imagination to suggest to his young charge that he might possibly be happiest designing plastic horseshoes or heading the Interorganizational Research Division for Providing Information to Pilot Projects of the Non-Self Governing Territories in the United Nations?

And so this month, May, we have chosen to describe an occupation that may seem strange but, given pause, offers fascinating possibilities. And best of all, it is an Ego-Builder. No one can doubt your courage, ingenuity, originality and dexterity when they



learn that you are a Scorpion Hunter. Professionally.

This vocation — or avocation if you prefer it so — has many satisfactions. For one, it is work you can get right in and do with your hands. Because what Scorpion Hunting means is gathering the tails (stingers seems rather too descriptive a word to use at this point). And there is no substitute for catching the scorpion in a firm grip behind its head and quick-like pinching off its tail. Manual dexterity is important here, but you'll never get anyplace by practicing fitting different-colored pegs in different sized holes. You can see how this demonstrates the tremendous lack of foresight and vision in our educational methods.

Too, it is outdoor work. And for those suffering from tuberculosis, avitaminosis, homicidal impulses, boredom, flat-feet or claustrophobia, it is an ideal outlet. The best scorpion country in Mexico (we are confining our present treatise to this area unless we have requests for more information) is on the west coast in the tropic regions of Tepic, Nayarit, Colima and Guerrero. It is country with lush, exotic vegetation, near fine beaches, blue skies, friendly natives and quantities of *dolce*



## and Make It Pay

*far niente*<sup>1</sup>, so what more could you want?

And finally, this is work that, along with its higher satisfactions, also brings money. You sell the tails for pharmaceutical purposes, and use the money for pleasanter things. In Mexico, your big buyer is the Government, which uses tails from scorpions all over the country to compound a general serum; for which it buys one million, count 'em, paying scorpion hunters 50 to 80 pesos per thousand tails, depending on the region they were pinched off in. As you can see there are fine points to this.

May is a fine month in which to initiate your career, as it is a height-of-the-season month for scorpions — a time in which they are all out busily seeking life's playgrounds. The other peak month is November. They are choice specimens then, having had the benefit of the summer rains and all that *dolce far niente*.



You require no kit other than a large-size<sup>2</sup> Mason jar with a tightly fitting top, and possibly an old creel so that if you manage to pinch off more than a thousand each trip, you will have a way to handle your bottles efficiently.

You who are well up on this subject may have noted that we did not mention the state of Durango as hunting grounds. Once upon a time the scorpions of Durango were famous, and preserved in lockets or encased in plastic they were sold widely as Mexican curios. However, without regard

<sup>1</sup> This is Italian for what everybody comes to México for.

to the economic well-being of its native sons who were scorpion hunters, Durango has systematically eradicated them. In any case, the scorpions of that region only looked vicious — big, fat brown ones — but they carried only a low quality venom. And it was because of this relative innocuity that show-offs used to put them on short leashes and attach them to their hatbands — large brimmed hats, of course.

One last hint, the bigger you are — in mass — the less the vocational hazard, because the scorpion has only one drop of poison at a time in his tail — and any large body will absorb and distribute it with only passing malaise. So this will serve to warn you about making it a family outing.



However agreeable it may be to do things "as a family", and educational too, if you take your children along you'd better also take a flask of anti-venom serum. True, few experiences can match the thrill of catching and in one swift motion, exterminating the dangerous little creature. So perhaps the risk to Junior is more than worth it for the manly training in meeting Life and its many hazards.

If we have struck a responsive chord, and you suddenly know your destiny to be that of a scorpion hunter, don't shilly-shally. This is a shrinking field. Rapid urbanization is exterminating the scorpion and driving him far afield. So if you're interested get in right now. There are still plenty of scorpions to make the rest of your life interesting. And of course, as a parlor accomplishment — who can match the true hunter's skill, with one flirt of the wrist — grab and pinch, grab and pinch, grab and pinch! And make it pay!

## IN MAY

(Continued from page 9)

And May this year will chalk up a rural step into the industrial age with the State of Mexico's ambitious modern Agricultural Fair in Toluca, where tractors and fertilizers will replace prayers to the deities of earth and water. But the dancing will go on unabated.

The Fair, which will open May 6 and continue for two weeks, was conceived by Governor Salvador Sánchez Colín, who planned this exhibition of arts, industries and agriculture not only to show recent advances in these fields in the State of Mexico, but also to demonstrate to small farmers of that area that the government is equipped and anxious to help them progress.

The fairgrounds cover some 15 acres of exhibits, ranging from fields (before and after fertilizers and contour plowing) presented by agricultural experts of the Rockefeller Foundation, to pavilions showing examples of all the heavy industry in the State of Mexico, and including a tremendous pavilion which will show popular arts of the State, with emphasis on Metepec's vivid clay figures, woven straw and leatherwork, and Toluca's famous handloomed cottons and wools.

The State of Mexico, an area still primarily agricultural, has become in recent years one of the most heavily industrial regions in the country. General Electric, Industria Eléctrica Mexicana (Westinghouse), and Kelvinator are located there, as are major plants of the rubber industry, paper production, automotive assembly and fiber and fabric producers.

Less imposing but more vivid activities of the people of this State will take over large amphitheaters in the fairgrounds: cockfights, bullfights, theaters, and much music of course; with either "city style" food or country barbecue available in the Fair's special restaurants.

Concurrently with the Fair, Mexican charros will hold their Fourth National Congress of Charros in Toluca, showing some of the country's finest horses and most brilliant horsemanship.

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of feature articles, Preview, News and Comment, The Arts, and Our Own Directory for shopping, foods, and places to visit.

MEXIC / this month

Athena 42-601

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# Our own Directory

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## IN THE SHOPS

Ever dreamed of having your shoes made to order, your gloves fitted right on your hands, your bags made to follow precisely your own designs?

Part of the dream-come-true quality of Mexico lies right in this field. It's an off-limits field to short-term vacationers, but wide open to summer students, who not only have time to wait while their shoes are stitched into shape, but also usually command enough Spanish vocabulary to be able to describe where the stitches should go.

Made-to-order service costs no more, and sometimes much less, than the price of ready-mades. And what designer of ready-mades, after all, knows just where you want a zipper in your purse, or just where the arch rises on your hard-to-fit left foot?

Like all good things, this one has its bad side. More human element is involved — therefore more chance for error. If you're a tyro designer, it's wisest to pick the shoe model you like, then have it made in your size; or choose the handbag design that most pleases you from among the factory's stock, and then change only minor details — color, or length of strap — on your made-to-order special. You can expect expert results if you deliver an item to be copied, or good results if you can present a scale drawing with explicit instructions written in Spanish.

Do-it-ourselves services abound in Mexico City and in many other cities in the Republic. They are expensive and cheap, good and not-so-good, and almost always exciting experiences. Here are some of the places we've

## INFORMATION SERVICES

A. M. A. (Asociación Mexicana Automovilística), Berlin 6. Affiliated with the A. A. A. Reciprocal courtesies to members. In case of emergency, call 35-27-35.

American Embassy, Reforma and Lafragua. Tel. 35-95-00.

American Society, Lucerna 71. Tel. 36-35-60 or 36-56-88.

A. N. A. (Asociación Nacional Automovilística), Sullivan 51. Affiliated with A. A. A. Services both to members and non-members. Emergency phone number: 35-03-43.

Benjamin Franklin Library, Niza 53.

Mexico City Daily Bulletin, Gómez Farías 41. Tel. 16-69-60. General tourist information.

Mexican-North American Cultural Institute Hamburg 115. Tel. 25-16-54, 25-16-55, 25-16-56.

National Tourist Department, Juárez 89. General travel information.

PEMEX Travel Club, Juárez 89. Highway information. Publishes an excellent auto travel bulletin in English.

found most satisfactory in leather working — shoes, slippers, gloves, belts and handbags. We'll talk Mexican tweeds and tailoring another month.

**Claudine**, Niza 23: Exquisite designing in shoes and handbags; fine leathers and other material. If stock sizes don't fit you, they'll make the model you want to order.

**Peter**, Insurgentes 320: Our favorite for handbags, belts and bedroom slippers. They make cuede and kid gloves, too, and you can even order specialty luggage, particularly camera bags and tote-all traveling bags.

**Prado Bags**, Juárez 66: Downtown factory, but prices are reasonable. These people have a penchant for alligator, in native and unnatural colors.

**Rivera**, San Luis Potosí 196-202: Many of the fine handbags in the city's better stores come from this factory, which has already begun to export to the U.S. Fine leathers; fine finishing.

**Thais**, Independencia 22-A: Made-to-order work here is particularly successful — in shoes, bags, gloves.

**Zapateria Mónaco**, 16 de Septiembre 18-B: Located in the old part of the city, this place offers low prices, fine workmanship.

For men's boots, particularly riding boots: The dedicated shoemaker at Isabel la Católica 32-19 says he's fitted most of Mexico's charros, and bullfighters, too.

If you are in Monterrey, on your way in or out of Mexico, don't miss Humberto Arellano's shop, the Carapan, for a good over-all selection of the best native crafts. He combs all of Mexico for collectors' items. He also runs the Posada Carapan, a tiny 5-room Spanish Colonial inn, furnished with utterly charming furnishings and equipped with balcony and patio, which are attached to the shop, and if you stay there you'll thank us.

# Our own Directory

## Knife and Fork

A venerable and much honored student tradition says that all budget difficulties can be resolved with a strong belt and several inches of notches for tightening same. This has been sung about, and also versed and storied, but only once in a while has anyone taken up the position that mental nutrition doesn't necessarily have to be coupled with physical starvation.

If you are a classicist and feel you must be emaciated, Mexican leather-workers make wonderfully strong belts in widths to cover just your waistline or your entire abdomen, and with all the notches you want. But if you prefer to walk from class to class, and agree that a hospital bed doesn't provide the best sort of reading light, you can surprise yourself agreeably by discovering the amount of good food you can eat for a few pesos a day in this country.

Naturally, the best plan for a student with real budget problems is a

room-and-board arrangement with a Mexican family — school information offices can recommend families who take student boarders. In such homes, you're likely not only to sample your way through most of the country's favorite dishes; you may also pick up a few cooking lessons from the lady of the house.

But boarder or not, you'll want to eat out occasionally or frequently. There are restaurants in the city that charge as little as 24 cents for a full-course meal; and many others that charge a bit more, but provide entertainment and pleasant surroundings as well as good food.

A new favorite of ours is Los Abajeños, at Yácatas and Cumbres de Maltrata, Colonia Narvarte, close to the main highway that leads into town from University City. The restaurant is big, but not big enough to hold all the *mariachi* music that comes pouring out in the evening when activity gets under way. Fresh hot tortillas, *salsas* and guacamole appear on the table as soon as you sit down, and you can follow these with a whole meal, or barbecued pork (sold by weight: half a kilo is about a pound, and serves 4 to 6). Plenty to eat, plus beer or a soft drink, will cost you about 50 cents.

Downtown lunching at El Jardín, Londres 94, is especially pleasant and economical, too. The place is a big garden hidden back of a busy and modern street. You can sit in the sun and look at flowering trees, or move indoors during summer showers; taste Guatemalan tamales, fine chicken tacos or ranch-style steak rubbed with herbs and chile powder, or just drink good coffee and munch on homemade pastries.

Sunday mornings are heaven sent for penny-dating, via barbecue stands. Such places sell pit-barbecued kid (*cabrito*) or pork (*carnitas*), by weight or by taco, to take with you or to eat at tables under leafy arbors. Super tacos cost about 4 cents each. Two specially good places are Luna Park, Av. Avila Camacho 66; and El Venadito, on Insurgentes across from the entrance to the Pedregal Gardens.

And when you are really and unbelievably broke, you can fill up in any Mexican restaurant on creamy fried beans, hot tortillas and nippy, freshly made sauces for just about 15 cents.

M.L.

## NIGHT SPOTS



### Songs from the Country, in Mexico City

By J. R. Hellmer

Although at first it would seem odd to speak of folk music in a city of four million people, a further look at this enormous, sprawling metropolis gives the reason why. Mexico City has doubled its size in less than ten years. Where have all these people come from? From the provinces, of course. That means that hundreds of thousands of families have left their rural birthplaces to seek (although they often don't find) their fortune in the great city, bringing with them customs and traditions which their relatively short stay in the capital hasn't yet erased.

The night spot center of guitar playing and singing is of course Tenampa, on colorful old Garibaldi Plaza where snack stands vie with romantically shady characters and *mariachi* bands in mass, looking like old time desperadoes about to storm a city. Guitar trios in droves surround your car or your group of friends arriving on foot, each trio clamoring that it sings better, or louder, or cheaper, than the rest.

If you say yes, they will sing their choices, as a rule modern songs, some of them very pretty, *boleros*, *huapangos*, *rancheras*, and even Texas-inspired *Pancho López*. This is what they think you want to hear; the current popular hits of course. However, as you learn more about traditional and truer Mexican music, and know what to ask for, the *mariachis* can and will produce *sones* from Jalisco, like *La Negra*, *La Madrugada*, *El Carretero*, *Camino Real de Colima*, *El Gusto*, *Las Alazanas*, *El Tren*, and others. Many of these are of singular beauty, both in the dazzling rhythmic counterpoint of *vihuelas* and *guitarrón*, set off by the exciting violin ornamentation, and the high, clear voices of the singers.

Next we can go to the famous Basilica of the Virgin of Guadalupe on some Sunday or religious holiday, where we will be sure to find at least

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## NIGHT SPOTS

one group of Indian dancers. Those most often seen are Los Concheros, so-called because their guitars (which the dancers themselves play while they dance) are made of *conchas*, the shell-back of the armadillo. The best time to go is during the morning, when the light is good for pictures. The music is not prehispanic, though the powerful rhythms and dance movements are strongly impregnated with the sense of musical expression of the Aztecs' descendants, and one feels that he is looking through a transparent scene of Christian worship into a dim but compelling unconscious recall to ancient Aztec rites. The costumes are barbarically beautiful.

If you stay in a hotel or apartment in one of the outlying *colonias*, or suburbs, of Mexico City for a few weeks, without doubt you will hear one of many groups of wandering musicians playing 19th century waltzes, *paso dobles* or mazurkas on a lone violin and a guitar. Even if a bit out

of tune, it sounds very lovely floating in on the clear morning air. This same kind of music has become a tradition in Mexico City as played by the *cilindreros*, the hurdy-gurdy men, who still manage to flourish in this song-loving land.

There are regional cultural centers in Mexico City that hold periodic "jam sessions" of their special types of folk music, such as the Centro Huasteco in the Plaza de Loreto, where a real *huapango* dance goes on every Saturday night, under the amiable direction of Professor Pedro Martínez, with authentic Huastecan music (violin, *jariana* and *huapango* guitar) and exciting falsetto singing. You can learn to dance *huapango* here in an enjoyable and folksy atmosphere. (No charge.)

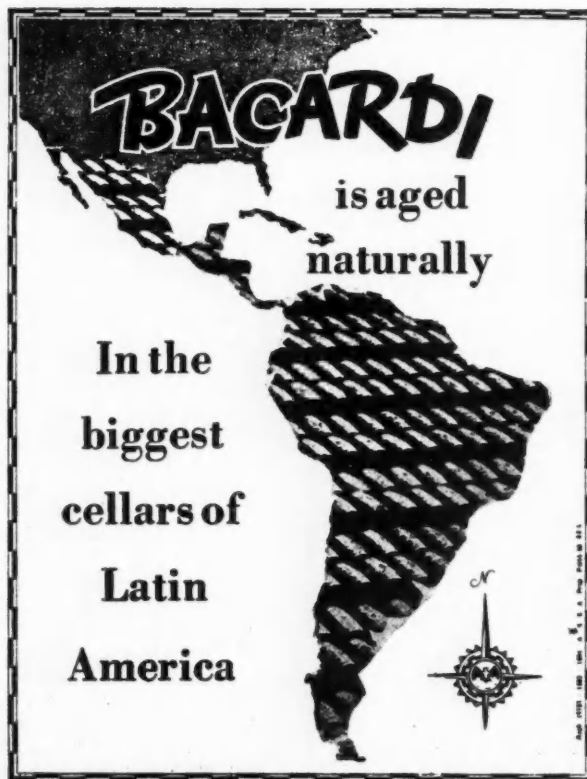
In the Centro Veracruzano you can hear the marvelous harp music of the Gulf coast and see the unique *zapateado*, during which the dancers even tie a knot in colored ribbons with their feet while they dance. This club is located at 16 de Septiembre 39-301.

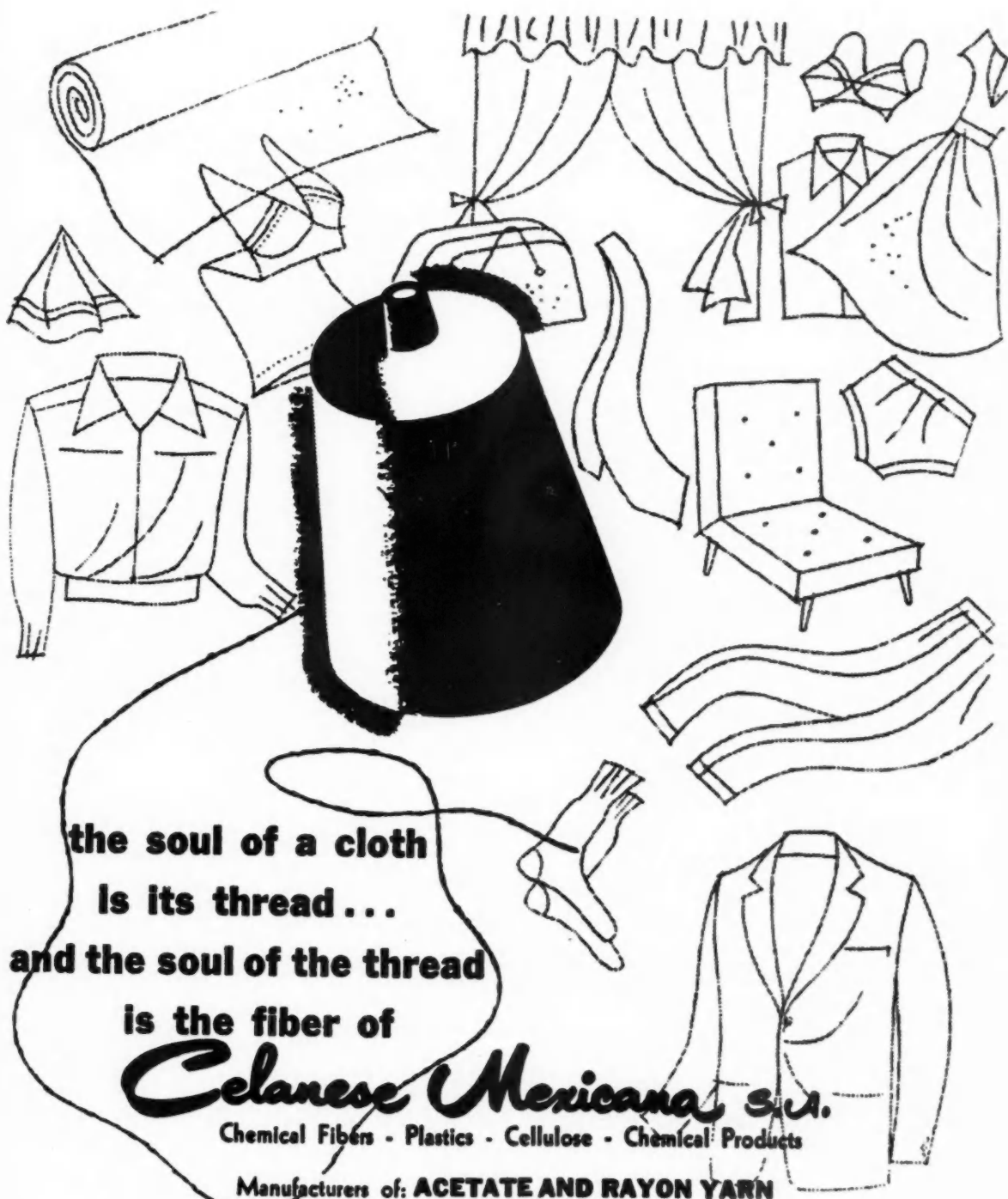


Annually, shortly after New Years, there is a big folk music and dance festival of the state of Guerrero, held in the Jardín Corona in Mexico City — a feast for eyes and ears. There are also occasional folk music festivals under the auspices of the cultural groups or clubs from the states of Chiapas, Tabasco and Oaxaca, usually announced in the newspapers. Watch for them under the generic name of "Centro" Chiapaneco, Tabasqueño, etc., as the case may be.

And, one may have many interesting and diverting musical adventures in the capital under the heading of pure luck. I once met in the Merced Market two Huichol Indians, with their little homemade violin and four-string guitar, and was able to persuade them to come and record dances accompanied by their instruments and strange, high, fervent singing. Another time, in front of the religious shrine of Los Remedios, I encountered an old harp player from the state of Zacatecas, and spent a wonderful hour listening to the musical embroidery of his deft fingers. Just before Christmas last year I spotted on a crowded street an Indian boy from San Luis Potosí with a corn-stalk flute and a tiny drum hung on the end of the flute. He was looking for a certain government office and, after helping him locate it, plus the person he wanted to see, I was rewarded with a series of Indian dance melodies played with astonishing rhythmic counterpoint and melodic freshness.

So you see, the possibilities are many — but one has to be looking for them.





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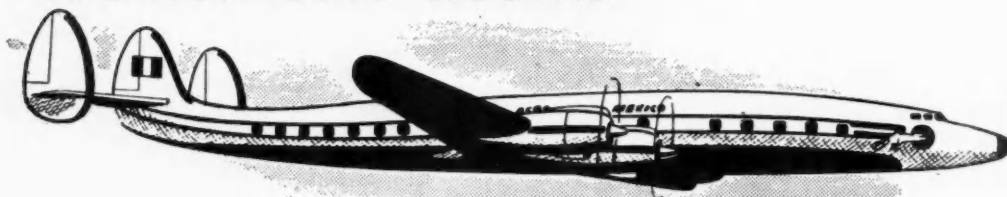
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